

# TMT and Mauna Kea: Sacredness and Consent

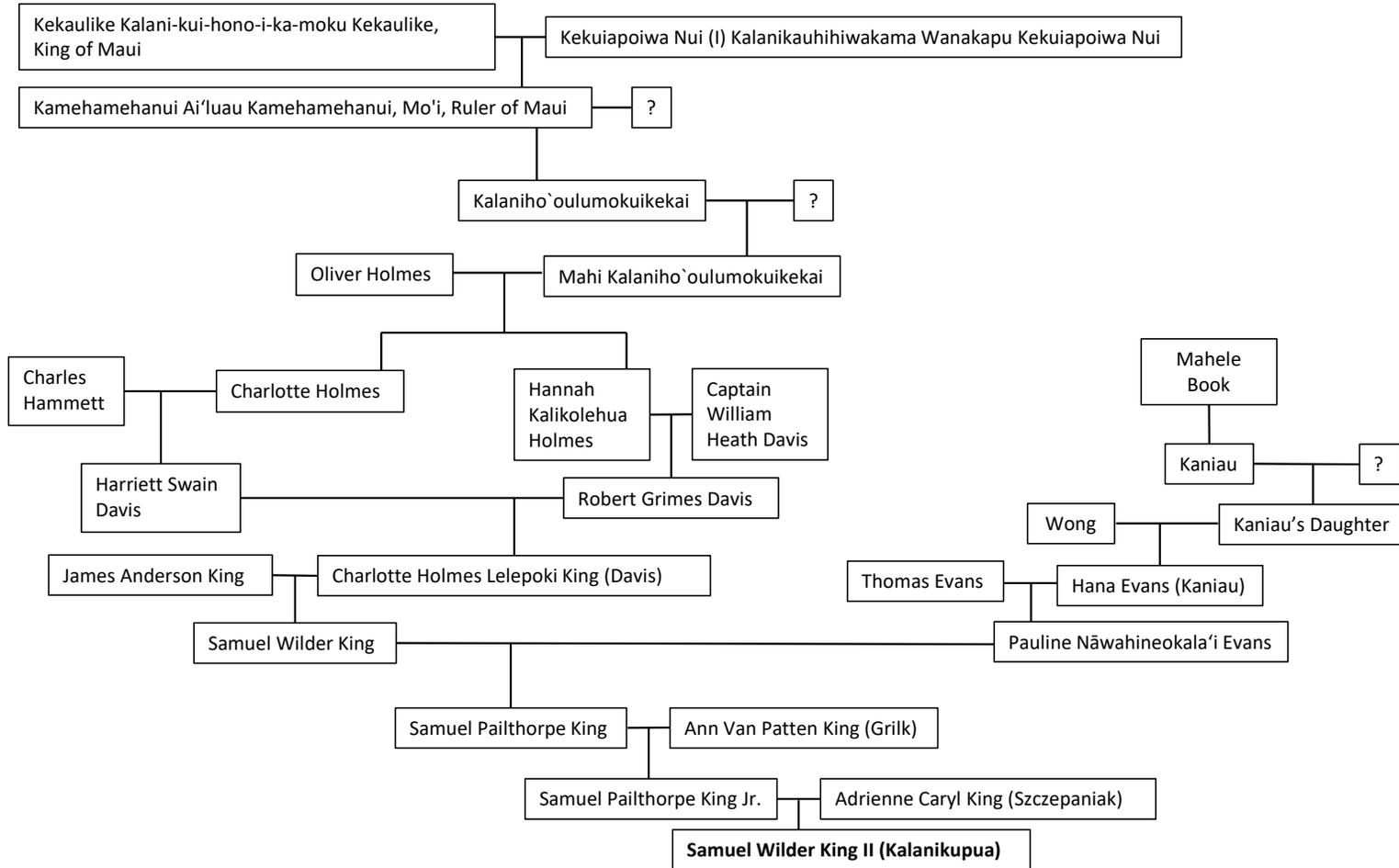
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IMUA **TMT**



# Who Am I?



# Sacred

## 1. Hawaiians are free of Kapu

- The Kapu system defined “sacredness” in ancient Hawaii.
- King Kamehameha II Liholiho *overthrew the Kapu system in 1819* by eating dinner with his mother Keopualani and Queen Regent Ka`ahumanu and declaring a permanent ‘ai noa.
- This established that Kapu is gone: no Hawaiian may impose their religious beliefs on another. *It is a violation of ‘ai noa and Liholiho’s decision to imply that Mauna Kea is sacred to all Native Hawaiians.*

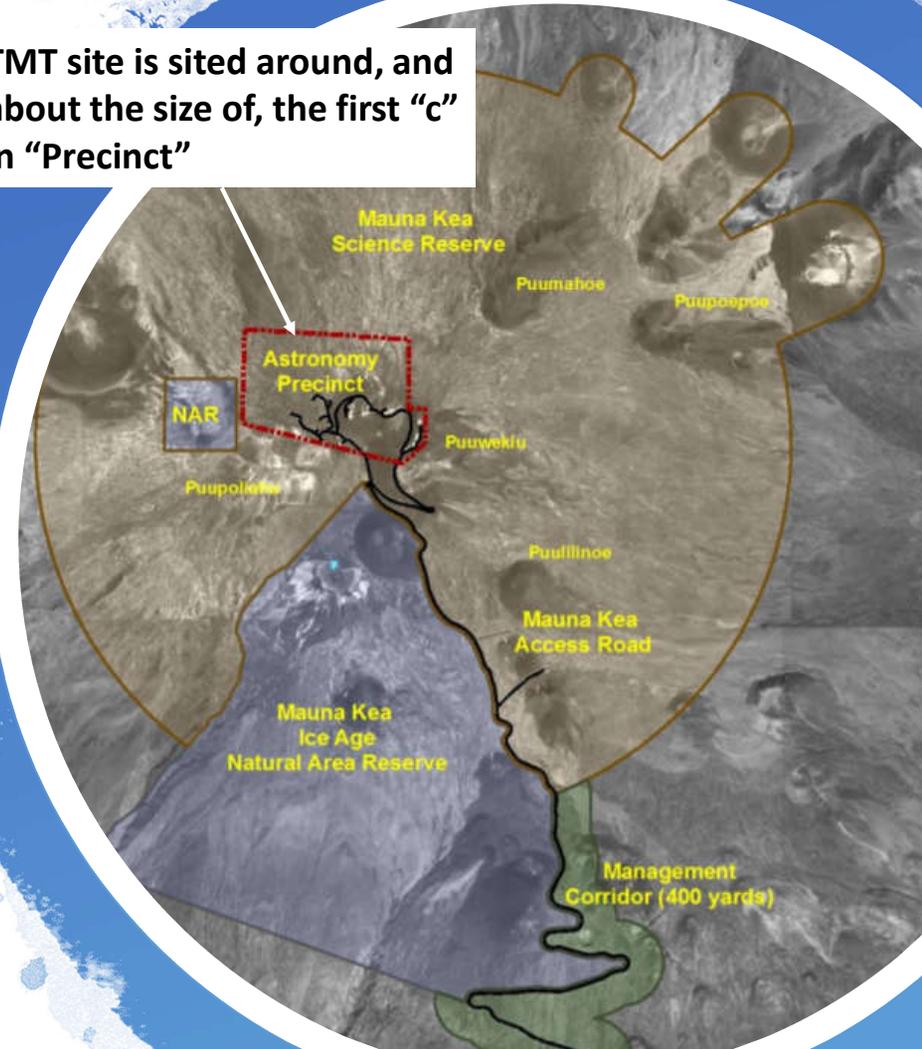
## 2. Even if the Kapu system were still in place, modern astronomy would be considered sacred, not desecration

- Leimomi Lum, the Kahuna of Mo`okini heiau, explains that the study of the heavens honors Mauna Kea, even as a matter of Kapu doctrine

## 3. Ancient Hawaiians used the summit of Mauna Kea for industrial purposes

- The historical record does not support any claims that Mauna Kea is sacred in such a way that would prevent use of the mountain or digging into the summit
- Indeed, the ancient Hawaiians maintained a rock quarry complex distributed over an area 960x the size of the TMT site (roughly the Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve in the picture to the right)

TMT site is sited around, and about the size of, the first “c” in “Precinct”





Modern  
Astronomy Is  
Consistent  
With Important  
Hawaiian  
Values

- Kupono: Excellence and honesty.
  - 'Imi na'au'ao: Seek knowledge.
  - Ka'ana: Share equally.
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# Consent

1. **Consent is a red herring**
  - Arguments about consent are meant to shift the discussion to emotional appeals
  - It is being used as political leverage
2. **The people of Hawaii Island consented by electing Mayor Roth**
  - The people of the state of Hawaii also demonstrated condemnation of the TMT protesters by overwhelmingly electing to a Big Island OHA trustee who is neutral on TMT against a leading protester
3. **OHA consented when it mattered and now has no position**
  - The Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a state agency charged with addressing the concerns of Native Hawaiians, did in fact vote in favor of constructing TMT when it mattered, before significant investments were made by UH, TMT, and the people of Hawaii
  - OHA changed its position from “pro” to “no position” based on a pressure campaign of deceit, lies, and bullying
3. **Kahu Ku Mauna consented**
  - The Office of Mauna Kea Management has a community-based board made of up cultural practitioners known as Kahu Ku Mauna, which approved TMT
4. **All evidence-based traditional practices accommodated; all impacts mitigated**
  - TMT has accommodated every fact-based traditional concern about TMT, including moving TMT off of the summit and completely out of view of the summit.
  - The Mauna Kea management plan guarantees 24/7 access to Mauna Kea for cultural practitioners.
5. **All citizens given extensive opportunities to comment on the record**
  - Through the EIS process, 2 contested case hearings and 2 Hawaii supreme court cases, all opponents of the project were heard. Many of their cultural complaints were not evidence based and their “Hawaiian” practices were modern in origin, many starting *after* they began protesting against TMT.
6. **Stopping TMT violates the rights of Native Hawaiian supporters**
  - Stopping TMT now because of the lawlessness of a small number of people claiming the mantle of Hawaiian legitimacy would be a violation of the rights of the Native Hawaiians that support TMT but do not speak out because they believe in democracy, the rule of law, and the government’s responsibility to do its job.

# My opinion – The people of Hawaii consented

- 1. Because consent is a red herring, Imua TMT does not officially address that issue. This slide represents my personal opinion.**
- 2. The united political entity known as “Hawaii” began life as a multi-ethnic society**
  - King Kamehameha, the conqueror of Hawaii, used weapons imported to Hawaii and non-native advisors. *Two of those advisors, John Young and Issac Davis, were made into ali`i* – in other words, despite not having been born in Hawaii prior to Captain Cook’s arrival, they were fully integrated into the “Hawaiian” political and religious system
- 3. Disagreements concerning the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy**
  - The Hawaiian Kingdom granted voting rights and citizenship to those who were not Hawaiian. There is no historical justification for the moral position that a race-based group composed of “Native Hawaiians” – being descendants of persons who lived in Hawaii prior to the arrival of Captain Cook – should have special powers of consent over any land in Hawaii
- 4. Decisions concerning Mauna Kea are properly made by all the people of Hawaii, not a single race-based entity**
  - Hawaiian society today is a secular, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic democracy and Mauna Kea is owned by the State of Hawaii.
  - Every citizen has an equal right to make decisions as to how Mauna Kea is used, and no citizen has greater rights than another



Further Discussion

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#### **Imua TMT Resources**

- You can see our panel discussions at [tinyURL.com/imuaTMTpanels](https://tinyurl.com/imuaTMTpanels)
- More resources can be found at:
  - <https://www.imuatmt.org/resources/>
  - [https://www.imuatmt.org/project/uploads/2020/12/Imua-TMT-brochure\\_121520.pdf](https://www.imuatmt.org/project/uploads/2020/12/Imua-TMT-brochure_121520.pdf)